

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples. We are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious acts of Reconciliation.

HADIH/HADI/HADEEH AND WELCOME TO SACHO NUN (JANUARY)

Happy New Year!

As we continue to make our way through the month of January, it is hard to believe we are almost halfway through the 2022-23 school year. With the holiday (and a *really* cold snap of December weather) behind us, January is a great time to renew our forward focus on the remainder of the school year ahead. Before we know it, spring will be upon us! In fact, the days are already seeming just a little bit longer. In the meantime, getting outside to enjoy learning on the land can create a sense of connection to place, in addition to a positive sense of well-being for students and staff.



A great deal of focus this month has, in fact, been centered on looking forward and planning for success. Our senior team has been supporting schools with feedback on School Growth Plans that align with the Board's [2020-2025 SD 91 Strategic Plan](#). We are also heading into a secondary school reporting period which will allow staff, students and families another critical opportunity to reflect on the school year thus far, as well as plan for future opportunities that lie ahead. Taking the opportunity that comes with a new year to reflect on learnings, renew our focus and re-commit to priorities can be so energizing!

I welcome you to read each of the stories of wonderful experiences taking place throughout the district. There are examples of bringing learning to life, teacher inquiry projects, and specific ways that schools and district staff strive to embody the notion of *Excellence, Innovation and Community*. There is just so much to be proud of here in Nechako Lakes School District! All of these efforts continue to focus on the value of **Honouring People, Land and History**.

Respectfully submitted,

(she/her)
Superintendent, SD91

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 1: HONOUR DIVERSITY

HONOUR DIVERSITY

Respect the strength of all diversities within our communities.

Support the transformation of an education system that recognizes, celebrates, and includes Indigenous history, worldviews and perspectives.

WL McLEOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We believe that Indigenizing and decolonizing is about taking every opportunity to honour Indigenous peoples and cultures. Staff and students of WL McLeod Elementary School took the opportunity to partner Indigenous culture and Christmas trees both publicly (at McDonalds) and in-house (in the school library) at Christmas time – a simple yet effective way to share a message that is so important.



EVELYN DICKSON ELEMENTARY

Ensuring that each learner feels connected and represented at school is so vital as children develop a strong sense of identity. Throughout the 2022-23 school year, the EDS morning announcements have incorporated a land acknowledgement as well as six languages for welcome (*good morning, hadih, bonjour, hola, mahraba and ni hao*). These “welcomes” represent languages that are all being spoken at home by EDS families, and they are also now beautifully painted on the walls of the school’s main office. In addition to these efforts, the residential school survivors' flag now hangs in the gymnasium and represents an important shift as the school continues to pursue ways to honour diversity and move forward in reconciliation. EDS staff have begun planning with Saik’uz Nation to create a land acknowledgment mural in the school’s main entrance with the support of a local Saik’uz artist. I look forward to seeing how this collaborative project unfolds!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 2: ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

Nurture school and district cultures that inspire and support passion-based teaching, learning and leading.

Create opportunities for every member of our organization to contribute to student success.

SD91 CAREERS PROGRAMS

The Careers Department is working collaboratively with the Tech Department (Keith Teichroeb) on the development of a mobile mechanism that determines the PSI breaking point of popsicle bridges. Class groups will be able to construct their own popsicle bridges utilizing common criteria such as finite pieces, maximum length, and maximum width to design. The “Bridge Crusher” will allow students to observe engineering principles in action as each bridge’s PSI breaking point is

determined. The vision is to have the Bridge Crusher

in a number of schools once the initial proof of concept phase is completed. As always, a big thanks to the Tech Department for their willingness to take on a project of this nature!



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 3: CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WITH PETER LILJEDAHL

During our monthly meeting Principals, Vice-Principals and district staff joined Peter Liljedahl for a thought-provoking morning of professional learning. The session focussed on the importance of feedback as a high leverage practice to promote student growth as related to learning tasks. We also explored effective practices in supporting teacher growth in their classroom practices. Peter ensured that PVP participants were actively engaged in their learning!



NEW TEACHER RECRUITING EFFORTS

As we continue to plan for the upcoming school year, teacher recruiting efforts are front of mind and in full swing. It has been one of many highlights for me this year to visit university education programs in order to attract new teacher talent to beautiful Nechako Lakes. I would like to thank the senior staff and school administrators for their efforts and the sense of collective responsibility that has been so obvious during this endeavour. To date, staff have connected with BEd. students in British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with future plans to recruit in Alberta. All hands are on deck to continue to build the SD91 talent pool!



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING INQUIRY

A collaborative group of educators from Quesnel, Prince George, and Nechako-Lakes met in Prince George for the day to kick start the ***Changing Possibilities for Young Children (CP4YC)*** inquiry! Representing Nechako Lakes school district, Wendy Kelemen (District Principal of Early Learning and Childcare), Kirsten Anderson-Funk (K/1 Educator), and Mrs. Sarah Meads (StrongStart Educator) participated in activities centered on reflection, inquiry, and networking. The educators, who have continued to participate in the inquiry process through the fall and winter, have selected one wonder child and an aspect of social-emotional well-being on which to center their observations and reflections. Mrs. Funk and Mrs. Meads should be commended for taking a risk and embarking on this collaborative inquiry which will inform their professional practice throughout the school year. Thank you to all school administrators who support teachers during their collaborative inquiry journeys. Mesiy!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 4: ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

**ENHANCE
CONNECTIONS**

Create opportunities
and assist schools to
engage in valuable
learning activities with
community partners.

FORT ST. JAMES SECONDARY SCHOOL

Students at FSJSS are working diligently on the installation of a variety of accessory items, large and small, to the Selective Fishing & Science Platform (SFSP). The SFSP is a collaborative project between SD91, FSJSS and River Trap Systems that involves the construction and eventual deployment of the system into Stuart Lake. Working with local First Nations and area partners, a number of programs are being developed to the shovel ready stage that incorporates selective fishing and science related activities. A big thanks to FSJSS for taking on this project and for their vision of incorporating student involvement at every applicable stage of the SFSP's pre-water development.



Jorja Isaac – welding



Dan Labatch Free – showing the SFSP under construction

TEAM FEATURE: SD91 PAYROLL DEPARTMENT

I want to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the SD91 Payroll Department in keeping the important functions directly related to employee service running effectively and efficiently. Debbie, Christine and Angie prepare payroll for CUPE members, teachers and exempt staff, and their processes really do run like clockwork! On top of their regular duties, they manage the workflow associated with issuing T4's and most recently, processing retroactive pay that has been associated with wage increases resulting from the most recent rounds of collective bargaining. A special thank-you for the massive effort during some very long days to ensure that retroactive pay was processed for teachers in advance of the holiday in December!

SD91 PARENT RESOURCE:

[SD91 DPAC Parent Resources - Steps to Resolving Concerns](#)

SD91 IN THE NEWS

<https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/news/merry-christmas-2/>

<https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/news/christmas-concert-fun/>

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